

them return to their waiting sheep we can almost hear them sing: "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd." The joy of Christmas is in finding for ourselves the Saviour and saying: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Verses 11 and 12. "The Babe." You cannot find a hovel so miserable, the circumstances and the prospects of life so wretched, that it is not a bright and glorious thing for a child to be born there. Hope flickers up for an instant from its embers at the first breathing of the baby's breath. And so there was nothing that could with such vividness represent the newness of Christianity in the world as to have it forever associated with the birth of a child. And there is nothing that could so set forth the illumination of all life for him who has accepted a personal Lord, as to associate it all forever with the birth of a child.

Verses 13 and 14. *The angels' song.* Peace is joy in its fullness. It comes to those who long for and seek it. A gift goes not where there is nothing to contain it; we do not pour grain into the air, but into the basket held for its reception. So it is a law of our moral nature that what we receive is always in proportion to our power of acceptance. A minister once prayed: "O Lord, we know not how much of thy grace we shall receive this day, but we know that we shall receive as much as we desire." The Lord does not send showers of blessing upon sealed hearts.

Verses 16. On that Christmas night God honored motherhood. The angels on their wings might have brought an infant Saviour to Bethlehem without Mary's being there at all. But, no; motherhood for all time was to be consecrated, and one of the tenderest relations was to be the maternal relation, and one of the sweetest words, "mother." In all ages God has honored good motherhood. In a great audience, most of whom were Christians, I asked that all those who had been blessed with Christian mothers arise, and almost the entire assembly stood up. Don't you see how important it is that all motherhood be consecrated?

Verses 15-20. Christmas marks a new departure in human history. Years are now reckoned, not from the beginning of the world, nor from the beginning of our country, but from the birth of Jesus Christ; and thus the very dates that we use in our daily intercourse bear witness to the fact that this day is the second birthday of the human race. Those who have traveled in mountainous countries know how the highest crest of the mountain range is always known by seeing from that point, and that point only, the streams dividing on either side. Even so it is with the event of this day

Blackboard.



GOOD TIDINGS

BROUGHT BY

THE ANGEL TO THE SHEPHERDS.

PREACHER
TO PEOPLE.

TEACHER
TO AUGHT.

CHRIST IS BORN.

GOD IS GLORIFIED BY THE HEAVENLY HOST.

"Praise ye the Lord."

GREAT JOY

TO ALL PEOPLE.

PEACE

SALVATION

TO

TROUBLED
HEARTS.

LOST
WORLD.

"Rejoice and be exceeding glad."

The Teachers' Meeting.

Draw or show on the map the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem.... Explain the purpose of their coming, the inn, the manger.... A picture: (1) Of the night watch; (2) Of the night song; (3) Of the night visit.... The persons of the lesson, their traits, and lessons from each: (1) The angels'